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# THE BROADWAY DEMOCRATS

◆ District Leaders: Curtis Arluck, Paula Diamond Román ◆ President: Luis Román ◆

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# Manhattan Valley Townhall

**For the residents of Manhattan Valley:**

*Come voice your concerns about  
your community.*

**Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm sign in/refreshments \* 8:00 forum \* 9:30 club business

**Cathedral Park Towers**

125 West 109th Street (Between Columbus & Amsterdam)

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Volume 35, Issue 7

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## District Leader's Report

Curtis Arluck

**Schneiderman, Gillibrand, Rangel, Perkins & Cohen Sweep Our District and Win Sweet Victories**

**Levine Wins Big Here But Falls to Excellent Espallat Campaign**

**Tough General Election Looms**

**O'Donnell to Open Democratic Storefront at Amsterdam and 106<sup>th</sup>**

**Let's Get to Work!**

A few words on each of the above headlines: It was an honor to be associated with **Eric Schneiderman's** campaign. In this awful climate where liberals run for cover and too many Democrats move to the center (and die), Eric ran as a proud progressive and was rewarded with large margins among NYC Latinos and African Americans as well as his traditional Upper West Side base.

But he also—and this is why I think he will win in November—understands what the NY Attorney General is supposed to do. The AG is the state's leading *civil* legal officer, not its head sheriff, as the Republican candidate seems to believe. (He's already boasting, both falsely and irrelevantly, that his Borough has the city's highest conviction rate.) Both Eliot Spitzer and Andrew Cuomo used the office to protect consumers, fight Wall Street corruption, and uphold the State's Constitution, which among other things protects a woman's right to choose. Eric's opponent is a strong opponent of abortion and civil liberties; his election would be a victory for those who would use government to fight people's rights rather than uphold them.

**Kirstin Gillibrand's** landslide victory over an unknown opponent wasn't surprising, what is surprising and worrisome is that one poll gives her only a narrow lead over kooky Republican Joe DioGuardi, a perennial candidate best known as the father of an "American Idol" judge. Kirstin has emerged as a progressive and effective Senator, a champion of the health care bill, immigration reform, marriage equality, and economic justice. In our last Danny O'Donnell 106<sup>th</sup> St. storefront in 2006 we helped launch Kirstin Gillibrand's political career, now we will need to help her again.

**Charlie Rangel** won because he was far better than his opponents and his critics, a man of towering intellect, ideals and accomplishments. With the partial exception of Jon Tasini, who ran as an old-fashioned radical, and Vince Morgan and Joyce Johnson, who campaigned with dignity, his opponents were a sorry lot: stupid, pandering, bereft of ideas.

And his critics, themselves in glass houses fueled by corporate billions, were worse than sorry, they were hypocrites. They turned petty violations (not paying \$1000 per year in taxes on an \$82,000 house, using *one* apartment as an office) into grand larceny, reiterating as fact false accusations even after they had been found to be untrue (three adjacent apartments that had been a family residence for decades; no charges on this brought by the Ethics Committee).

We've known that adversity brings strength since the days of Job; to the extent that Charlie Rangel, like any of us, had grown a little complacent, these charges, this campaign, has "fired him up" (Charlie's words.) The rapturous response he received from most people at the 110<sup>th</sup> St. subway was one of the high points of my political life, and I hope of his as well.

I'm glad I was given the opportunity to work with Charlie Rangel. I wish I had paid more attention when the late, great Percy Sutton was at the height of his brilliant career. But of another scion of the Harlem Establishment I can speak with only sorrow and disappointment. The appearance of Governor David Paterson at campaign rallies for the hedge-funded political nonentity who was crushed by Senator **Bill Perkins** was one of the lowest moments of my political life, a sad coda for what was once a successful and inspiring career.

One reason I and thousands of people in his district admire Bill so much is that he is admirably successful at both "global" and "local" concerns. He leads us on lead paint abatement, education reform, eradicating rats, reforming our state's chaotic system of Public Authorities, fighting for the rights of gays and women and unjustly accused minority teenagers. And yet he's also always trying to figure out what it all means, how to bring the truth to power, how to elect the most progressive candidate. His predecessor in the State Senate, David Paterson was also a good "global" leader, with his quick mind, engaging, witty personality, and moving personal history. But as a "local" leader, especially on the West Side, he was a disappointment,

unengaged, uninterested, always referring one to aides. On the above-mentioned local issues, and so many others, Council Member and then Senator Bill Perkins accomplished much more than did Senator David Paterson. So it was profoundly depressing to see someone who had locally accomplished so little supporting someone who had locally accomplished nothing in trying to oust someone who had accomplished so much. Paterson seemed to be motivated by petulance and pique; Smikle was being funded by wealthy hedge fund and real estate interests who didn't like it that Bill Perkins had repeatedly stood up to them. Not to overly disparage Basil Smikle, whom I found to be pleasant and smart, but in his first race for office he chose to ally himself with some rich, determined people whose vision of our city's future is disturbingly different than ours.

Happily, justice resoundingly triumphed. Bill won overall by better than 3-1, won our district by 6-1, Morningside Gardens by 8-1 and Grant Houses by 12-1. Many people voted for Bill Perkins for the "symbolic" reasons outlined above. But many more, I'm sure, voted for him because they knew him, loved the work that he does, and wanted to send a resounding message that he should keep doing it.

The club and I supported Mark Levine because we saw him as both a progressive and a reformer who would truly challenge the way Albany does business. Mark worked indefatigably and won handily here, but lost to a wave that his opponent **Adriano Espailat** both benefited from and helped direct. This election was a great one for progressive Latino political empowerment in New York City. Adriano, always a strong progressive, won; the corrupt turncoat Pedro Espada was trounced by his exciting young challenger Gustavo Rivera; the comeback bid of the abusive turncoat Hiram Monserrate failed miserably. Only the easy victory of the conservative homophobe Ruben Diaz Sr. spoiled the night. Adriano Espailat ran a magnificent campaign with outreach everywhere in the district from the Boat Basin to Fieldston, carried Riverdale, and won a monumental percentage of the Latino vote. We know he will be a great State Senator, and look forward to working with him.

I am thrilled that **Dan Cohen** handily won his race for Democratic State Committeeman. Dan will work cooperatively with the clubs, the community, and the State Committee to build a more activist and progressive Democratic Party. But let me use the rest of this space in tribute to his vanquished opponent Bob Ginsberg, who served as State Committeeman from 1974 to 2008. Bob was and is prickly, at times obtuse, and never worked particularly hard at the job, especially recently. He too often sent out obscure manifestos unfairly attacking his ideological allies, including me. But he is a passionate progressive, revered by his colleagues in the Reform Caucus that he helped found. I never met an elected officeholder

with less ambition for higher office. For 34 years he fought hard and effectively for his beliefs—that is much more than we can say for most people in political life.

As you know, Democrats face a challenging election this November. The Republicans want to replace policies that have largely succeeded with those that have completely failed. In our neighborhood, Broadway Democrats is the local outpost in the nationwide fight to stem this tide. Join us. Call Luis, Paula, or me. Visit our wonderful new Website: <http://www.broadwaydemocrats.org/> View us on Facebook. Volunteer at Danny O'Donnell's storefront (details to come). ***Don't let them steal our country!***

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## **Democratic State Committeeman Report**

### Daniel Marks Cohen

Thank you for your support and encouragement for my campaign for State Committeeman. I am pleased to report that I won! With the final results in, I prevailed by an even larger margin over my opponent than I initially reported: 5,173 votes to 3,954 votes, or 57% to 43%. A solid victory; and I am very happy with the results.

My position on the State Committee began work immediately, with a meeting in Syracuse on September 21<sup>st</sup>. More pep-rally than working session, we re-elected the State Chairman, Jay Jacobs, to a new term, and officially endorsed the entire post-primary Democratic slate. But it was good to meet my colleagues from across the state, and I am excited to get to work.

Speaking of work, I am also delighted to announce that as of last month I have accepted a new position at the Community Preservation Corporation (CPC) as a Mortgage Officer. CPC offers construction and permanent financing for both the preservation of existing affordable housing and the creation of new homes and has been in existence since 1974 as a not-for-profit mortgage lender. You can learn more about CPC at [www.communitycp.com](http://www.communitycp.com).

Thank you for your support and encouragement in my campaign, I look forward to seeing you at the club meeting and working with you to elect Democrats this November.

Thanks again!

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## Membership

In order to vote in club elections (endorsements, elections of officers, judicial convention, amendments), you must be an eligible, voting member of the Broadway Democrats. You must have attended at least one of the previous nine monthly public meetings and you must pay your dues. Dues partially defray the costs of presenting forums and putting out this newsletter. Dues are \$20; senior dues are \$5.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

The Broadway Democrats  
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FIRST  
CLASS

Assemblymember: Daniel O'Donnell  
District Leaders: Curtis Arluck,  
Paula Diamond Román  
President: Luis Román  
Newsletter Editor: Gretchen Borges

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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